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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/284,339	04/13/1999	HISASHI TAKAYAMA	1900/005	2180

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EXAMINER

CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/284,339	Applicant(s) Takayama	Examiner Michael Cuff	Art Unit 3627	
	<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>				
	Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>1</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 					
Status					
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>Oct 27, 1999</u>					
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.					
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims					
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-195</u> is/are pending in the application.					
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.					
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.					
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.					
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.					
8) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claims <u>1-195</u> are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.					
Application Papers					
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.					
10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).					
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.					
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120					
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.					
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.					
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.					
Attachment(s)					
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)			4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____		
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)			5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____			6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-145 and 173-175, drawn to an electronic commerce system.

Group II, claim(s) 146-154 and 178-195, drawn to a recording medium.

Group III, claim(s) 155-163, drawn to an electronic wallet.

Group IV, claim(s) 164, drawn to a seller terminal.

Group V, claim(s) 165, drawn to an automatic vending machine.

Group VI, claim(s) 166, drawn to a call switching center.

Group VII, claim(s) 167, drawn to a service provider.

Group VIII, claim(s) 168-172, drawn to a management machine.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-VIII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The eight groups above are related to each other as

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independent sub-systems usable together or on their own as independently claimed and therefore have no claimed common special technical feature.

3. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Species A an electronic payment card

Species B an electronic telephone card

Species C an electronic ticket

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

4. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

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Claims 9, 10, 141, 11, 26, 27, 29, 31, 12, 22, 35, 36, 39, 55, 23-25, 93, 136-138, 56, 61-64, 142-144, 28, 40, 41, 102, 107, 43, 44, 117, 46, 47, 48, 131, 49, 50 174, 51, 52, 175, 53, 54, 176, 177, 65-67, 111-114, 118-121, 104-106, 75-78, 95, 96, 100, 101, 81-84, 110, 115, 109, 116, 87-90, 125, 129, 130, 124, 97-99, 103, 126-128, 132-135 and 139 are drawn to an electronic payment card. (note: there appears to be some clerical mistakes in dependencies which improperly mix species, this list may change as further examination continues.)

Claims 13, 14, 32, 57, 58, 42, 15, 16, and 37 are drawn to an electronic telephone card.

Claims 17, 33, 18, 19, 12, 45, 20, 59, 38 and 60 are drawn to an electronic ticket.

The following claim(s) are generic to group I: 1-8, 140, 173, 21, 34, 32, 68-74, 79, 80, 94, 85, 86, 91, 92, and 123.

5. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the structure of the cards provides no special technical feature as evidenced by a basic smart card. The processing procedure for each species is independent and different and therefore no claimed common special technical feature.

6. As a reminder of unity rules under 371, the examiner has provided 37 CFR 1.475:
“§ 1.475 Unity of invention before the International Searching Authority, the International Preliminary Examining Authority and during the national stage.

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(a) An international and a national stage application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept ("requirement of unity of invention"). Where a group of inventions is claimed in an application, the requirement of unity of invention shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art."

7. A telephone call was not made to the attorney of record to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement because of the large number and technical aspects of the claims.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

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Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Michael Cuff at telephone number (703) 308-0610.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9326. (After Final special fax number (703) 872-9327) The customer service number is (703) 872-9325.

Michael Cuff 9/17/02
Michael Cuff
September 17, 2002